

V. REMARKS

Claims 5, 7, 9-11, 13-17, 19-22 and 24-26 are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Loose et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,517,433) in view of Weatherford et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,206,920) and Yoseloff (U.S. Patent No. 6,299,170). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Loose reveals a spinning reel slot machine that includes a plurality of mechanical rotatable reels and a video display. The plurality of mechanical rotatable reels, in response to a wager, are rotated and stopped to randomly place symbols on the reels in visual association with a display area. The video display provides a video image overlaying the reels with the video image interacting with the symbols on the reels. The video display is a flat panel transmissive display, in the form of a liquid crystal display, positioned in front of the reels.

Weatherford teaches a multiple digit electronic game that is adapted to permit a player to select a sequence of digits in anticipation of a sequence of digits selected by a random number generator. The electronic game is provided with a programmable comparator which the player may direct to provide a win indication logic output in the event of a perfect, sequential match between the player selected digits and the randomly selected digits or, a match between the player selected digits and the randomly selected digits irrespective of sequence.

Yoseloff discloses a higher frequency wild card game method and apparatus. The method of playing a live casino card game with a video display of a wild card includes dealing a number of physical playing cards to a player to form an original hand, the player having made a wager on a card game being played with that original hand. From a separate virtual deck of playing cards, dealing at least one card that is a video display card. At any time during play of the game, showing the value of the at least one card that is a video display card, the at least one card that is a video display card establishing a fact that physical cards of a predetermined relationship to

the at least one card that is a video display card are wild cards for the purpose of establishing a rank or value for the player's hand. The player is then paid for attaining a hand of at least a predetermined rank or having a hand with a value higher than the value of a dealer's hand; the rank or value being determined with or without the presence of wild cards.

Claims 5, 11, 17 and 22 are directed to a gaming machine. Claims 10, 16, 21 and 26 are directed to a display device for a gaming machine. Claims 5, 10, 11, 16, 17 and 21 recite an image state keeping device and recite that the image state keeping device which monitors a signal of an image fed from the display control device, detects whether the signal is in a normal state thereby rendering the image as a normal image or an abnormal state thereby rendering the image as an abnormal image being different from the normal image and controls the display device such that when the image state keeping device detects that the signal is in the abnormal state, the display device is controlled to display the image as the normal image .

It is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claims 5, 10, 11, 16, 17 and 21 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art, alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest the image state keeping device which monitors a signal of an image fed from the display control device, detects whether the signal is in a normal state thereby rendering the image as a normal image or an abnormal state thereby rendering the image as an abnormal image being different from the normal image and controls the display device such that when the image state keeping device detects that the signal is in the abnormal state, the display device is controlled to display the image as the normal image . Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art could not combine the features of the applied art to arrive at the claimed invention because the applied art is devoid of all the features of the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claims 5, 10, 11, 16, 17 and 21 are allowable over the applied art.

Claims 22 and 26 recite an image signal control device and a transparent image display device. Claims 22 and 26 recite that the image signal control device receives a signal of an image from the display control device to display the image on the display device, detects whether the signal is in a normal state thereby rendering the image as a normal image or an abnormal state thereby rendering the image as an abnormal image being different from the normal image and controls the display device such that when the image signal control device detects that the signal is in the abnormal state, the display device is controlled to display the image as the normal image. Claims 22 and 26 also recite that the transparent image display device displays an image of relatively high transparency on the display device when the image signal control device detects abnormality of the signal of the image such that the relative high transparency of the image is sufficient to enable a player to see through the image and view at least one of the plurality of symbols on a front-most portion of the reel.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claims 22 and 26 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art, alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest an image signal control device receives a signal of an image from the display control device to display the image on the display device, detects whether the signal is in a normal state thereby rendering the image as a normal image or an abnormal state thereby rendering the image as an abnormal image being different from the normal image and controls the display device such that when the image signal control device detects that the signal is in the abnormal state, the display device is controlled to display the image as the normal image and a transparent image display device displays an image of relatively high transparency on the display device when the image signal control device detects abnormality of the signal of the image such that the relative high transparency of the image is sufficient to enable a player to see through the image and view at least one of the plurality of symbols on a front-most portion of the reel. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art could not combine the features of the applied art to arrive at the claimed invention

because the applied art is devoid of all the features of the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 22 and 26 are allowable over the applied art.

Claims 7 and 9 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Claims 13-15 depend from claim 11 and include all of the features of claim 11. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 11 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Claims 19 and 20 depend from claim 17 and include all of the features of claim 17. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 17 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Claims 24 and 25 depend from claim 22 and include all of the features of claim 22. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 22 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 5, 7, 9-11, 13-17, 19-22 and 24-26 are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Loose in view of Weatherford and Yoseloff and further in view of Walker (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0224852). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Walker discloses a method and apparatus for linked play gaming with combined outcomes and shared indicia. In particular, this invention includes a system and method for providing linked play via gaming and other devices wherein players may share and combine outcomes or parts thereof. A casino server registers a group for linked play and a group objective and format are established. The linked play commences according to the group format on the gaming devices while the casino server, or another device, concurrently facilitates interaction between the

group members operating the gaming devices. During the interaction, players may combine outcomes in an attempt to win group prizes. The linked play is terminated according to the group format and a determination is made by the casino server whether the group objective has been achieved. Prizes are awarded via the gaming devices if the group objective was achieved.

Claim 12 depends from claim 11 and includes all of the features of claim 11. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claim is allowable at least for the reasons claim 11 is allowable as well as for the features it recites.

Claim 18 depends from claim 17 and includes all of the features of claim 17. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claim is allowable at least for the reasons claim 17 is allowable as well as for the features it recites.

Claim 23 depends from claim 22 and includes all of the features of claim 22. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claim is allowable at least for the reasons claim 22 is allowable as well as for the features it recites.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance over the prior art of record. Therefore, this Amendment is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding Office Action. Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to set forth further arguments and remarks supporting the patentability of their claims, including the separate patentability of the dependent claims not explicitly addressed herein, in future papers.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the

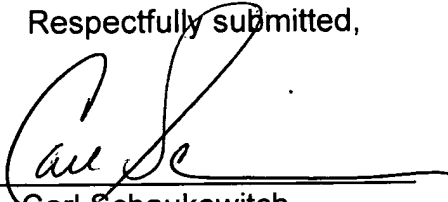
telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:


Carl Schaukowitch
Reg. No. 29,211

RADER, FISHMAN & GRAUER PLLC
1233 20th Street, N.W. Suite 501
Washington, D.C. 20036
Tel: (202) 955-3750
Fax: (202) 955-3751
Customer No. 23353

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